AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims, which is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in relation to the present patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A torch, comprising:

a valve assembly; and

a torch butt comprising a passageway for receiving the valve assembly, and a passageway for routing fluid through the torch;

wherein the valve assembly is selectively securable to the torch butt in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the torch butt, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation, the valve assembly being operable to control the fluid to the passageway in both the first and second orientations; and

wherein the torch butt comprises first and second intakes, such that the valve assembly receives the fluid from the first intake when in the first orientation and from the second intake when in the second orientation.

15. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, wherein the passageway defines a first seating surface and a second seating surface for sealing engagement with the valve assembly, the first and second seating surfaces being oriented in opposite directions.

16. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, comprising a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first and second portions are operable to pivotally secure a

valve-operating lever to the torch butt, wherein the first portion and the second portion are disposed on opposite rear positions of the torch butt.

17. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the first orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the first portion of the torch butt.

18. (original) The torch as recited in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the second orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the second portion of the torch butt.

19. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the first portion and the second portion comprise a hole in the torch member.

20-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) A torch, comprising:

means for selectively securing a cutting oxygen valve assembly within a torch butt in a first and a second orientation relative to the torch to provide a fluid flow to a dedicated passage from first and second intakes, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation, and wherein the cutting oxygen valve assembly receives the fluid flow from the first intake when in the first orientation and the second intake when in the second orientation; and

means for pivotally securing a lever on opposite sides of the torch to enable the lever to operate the cutting oxygen valve assembly in the first and the second ~~orientation~~orientation.

32-40. (cancelled)

41. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a torch, comprising:

a combustion tip;

a body coupled to the combustion tip, wherein the body comprises first and second pivot joints disposed on opposite sides of the torch and separate from one another;

a fuel inlet coupled to the body upstream from the combustion tip;

an oxygen inlet coupled to the body upstream from the combustion tip;

a valve passage extending crosswise completely through the body in a crosswise direction relative to a longitudinal axis of the torch;

a reversible valve member disposed in the valve passage and movable in the crosswise direction, wherein the reversible valve member comprises first and second valve orientations that are reversible relative to opposite ends of the valve passage on the opposite sides of the torch, respectively; and

a lever comprising first and second mounting orientations that are reversible relative to the opposite ends of the valve passage while the body remains in a fixed position relative to the combustion tip, wherein the first mounting orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the first pivot joint without connection to the second pivot joint, and the second mounting orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the second pivot joint without connection to the first pivot joint.

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44. (previously presented)The system of claim 41, wherein the lever directly engages the reversible valve member.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the lever interfaces with the reversible valve member at a position outside of the body.

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the reversible valve member is configured to open and close a first flow path but not a second flow path while movable in the first valve orientation, and the reversible valve member is configured to open and close the second flow path but not the first flow path while movable in the second valve orientation.

47. (previously presented)The system of claim 46, wherein the first flow path comprises a first inlet passage and the second flow path comprises a second inlet passage separate from the first inlet passage.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the lever is disposed at least substantially outside the body in an accessible position

49-54. (cancelled)

55. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a torch valve body comprising a valve passage extending completely through the torch valve body along a first axis crosswise to a second axis, wherein the second axis is oriented in a general direction of fluid flow through the torch valve body;

a valve movable along the first axis within the valve passage, wherein a portion of the valve that moves along the first axis protrudes from the torch valve body to an engagement position outside of the torch valve body, and the valve is selectively mountable in the valve passage in a first orientation and a second orientation inverted relative to the first orientation;

a first oxygen pathway controlled by the valve;

a second oxygen pathway bypassing and not controlled by the valve;

a fuel pathway bypassing and not controlled by the valve; and

a lever engaged with the portion of the valve at the engagement position, wherein the lever is selectively mountable to the torch valve body in a first lever orientation and a second lever orientation inverted relative to the first lever orientation.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the lever is reversible between the first and second lever orientations while the torch valve body remains in a fixed position.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising first and second pivot joints disposed on opposite sides of the torch valve body and separate from one another, wherein the first lever orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the first pivot joint without connection to the second pivot joint, and the second lever orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the second pivot joint without connection to the first pivot joint.

58. (previously presented)The system of claim 55, comprising a torch having the torch valve body, the valve, and the lever.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch valve body, wherein the handle has a skull-shaped cross section uniform along a length of the handle.

60. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch valve body, wherein the handle has an upper radius and a lower radius that are uniform along a length of the handle, and the upper and lower radii are different from one another.

61. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a torch, comprising:

a body comprising a valve passage having an axis oriented crosswise relative to a longitudinal axis of the torch; and

a valve disposed in the valve passage, wherein the valve has a range of movement along the axis in opposite directions oriented crosswise relative to the longitudinal axis of the torch, and the valve is selectively mountable in the valve passage in a first orientation and a second orientation inverted relative to the first orientation.

62. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, comprising a lever selectively mountable to the body in a first lever orientation and a second lever orientation inverted relative to the first lever orientation.

63. (previously presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the lever is reversible between the first and second lever orientations while the body remains in a fixed position.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, comprising a push rod coupled to the valve and extending outside an exterior of the body, wherein the push rod is movable along the axis in the opposite directions with the valve.

65. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, comprising a torch head coupled to the body, wherein the body is rotationally fixed relative to the torch head.

66. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the body comprises a single fluid outlet coupled to the valve passage.

67. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the valve passage is coupled to a first fluid inlet, a second fluid inlet, and a fluid outlet, wherein the valve

receives fluid from the first fluid inlet when in the first orientation and from the second fluid inlet when in the second orientation, and the valve outputs the fluid to the fluid outlet in both the first and second orientations.

68. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a torch, comprising:

a body comprising a valve passage; ~~and~~

a valve selectively mountable in the valve passage in a first orientation and a second orientation inverted relative to the first orientation, wherein the valve passage is coupled to a first fluid inlet, a second fluid inlet, and a fluid outlet, wherein the valve receives fluid from the first fluid inlet when in the first orientation and from the second fluid inlet when in the second orientation, and the valve outputs the fluid to the fluid outlet in both the first and second orientations; ~~and~~

a first pivot joint;

a second pivot joint; and

a lever selectively mountable to the torch in a first lever orientation and a second lever orientation inverted relative to the first orientation, wherein the first lever orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the first pivot joint without connection to the second pivot joint, and the second lever orientation comprises the lever mutually exclusively secured to the second pivot joint without connection to the first pivot joint.

69. (cancelled)

70. (previously presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the lever is reversible between the first and second lever orientations while the body remains in a fixed position.

71. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a torch, comprising:

a body comprising a valve passage having an axis oriented crosswise relative to a longitudinal axis of the torch; and

a valve disposed in the valve passage, wherein the valve has a range of movement along the axis in opposite directions oriented crosswise relative to the longitudinal axis of the torch, and the valve is selectively mountable in the valve passage in a first orientation and a second orientation inverted relative to the first orientation, wherein the torch splits flow of a fluid to partially bypass the valve and to be partially controlled by the valve.

72. (previously presented) The system of claim 71, comprising a lever reversibly mountable to the torch between first and second lever orientations while the body remains in a fixed position.